

Message Text

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TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 60TH ECOSOC: AGENDA ITEM 3 (DECADE FOR ACTION
TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION)

REF: USUN 1724

1. SUMMARY: DEBATE ON THIS ITEM CONTINUED APRIL 27.
MOST STATEMENTS WERE RELATIVELY MODERATE AND AVOIDED DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, THE SOVIET UNION AND GDR REPRESENTATIVES EXPLICITLY REITERATED THEIR SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION, AND THE SYRIAN OBSERVER LAUNCHED A MINOR DIATRIBE AGAINST ZIONISM. ALL THREE CITED THE RECENT VORSTER VISIT TO ISRAEL AS SUPPORTING EVIDENCE. CHINESE CHARGES OF SOVIET "WANTON AGGRESSION" IN ANGOLA PRODUCED A HEATED EXCHANGE AMONG USSR, CHINA, AND CUBA. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES APRIL 27 DEBATE ON THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

3. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FRENCH-SPEAKING PARLIAMENTARIANS (CATEGORY 1 NGO) EXPRESSED THE GENERAL SUPPORT OF HIS ORGANIZATION FOR THE
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WORK OF ECOSOC IN THIS AREA. HE SAID THAT PROGRESS COULD

BE ACHIEVED ONLY THROUGH A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDES OF MEN AND URGED ECOSOC TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO EDUCATE THE WORLD ON THE EVILS OF RACISM.

4. BANGLADESH REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT IN SPITE OF THE EFFORTS OF THE UN AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, RACISM CONTINUED TO EXIST IN NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA, AND "ELSEWHERE" BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF SOME NATIONS. HE NOTED THAT BANGLADESH HAS SUPPORTED "ALL RESOLUTIONS" OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALLING FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACISM.

5. ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT HER GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE GOALS OF THE DECADE AS DEFINED IN RESOLUTION 3057 (XXVIII). SHE SAID THAT IF THE DECADE WAS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, ECOSOC MUST AVOID THE INTRODUCTION OF "EXTRANEIOUS ITEMS." THE GOI POSITION ON THESE ITEMS IS WELL-KNOWN AND REMAINS UNCHANGED.

6. THE LIBERIAN REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT THE TARGET OF EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION REMAINS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND APPEALED TO OTHER COUNTRIES NOT TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THIS AREA.

7. THE USSR REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT RACISM MUST BE CONDEMNED BUT, EVEN MORE, THERE WAS A NEED FOR AN ACTION PROGRAM. THIS WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE DECADE WHICH HAS BEEN FURTHER ELABORATED IN THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 29TH AND 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLIES. HE SAID THAT THE LESSENING OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION AND GROWING PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE HAD CREATED NEW AND FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM IN WHICH SOCIALIST STATES WERE TO BE FOUND ON THE SIDE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, SUCH AS IN ANGOLA. HE NOTED THAT SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS AN AREA OF PARTICULAR CONCERN, THAT THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF RACIST REGIMES THERE WAS SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED BY TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND SOME GOVERNMENTS, AND THAT CONTRARY TO THE VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES, THESE TIES WERE BEING STRENGTHENED. HE SAID THAT THE BASIC CONCERN WHICH UNDERLAY THE CONVENTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION LED INEVITABLY TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONDEMNING ZIONISM AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ENJOYED THE SUPPORT OF HIS GOVERNMENT. THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE POINTED TO THE RECENT VISIT OF SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VOESTER TO ISRAEL AS EVIDENCE OF THE SIMILAR RACIST PHILOSOPHIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES. FINALLY, HE REITERATED THE SOVIET COMMITMENT TO THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SUPPORT OF ALL RESOLUTIONS AND CONVENTIONS APPROVED BY THE UNITED NATIONS.

8. THE SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT OF THE DECADE AND OF THE GHANA CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT THE UN MUST GIVE MORE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO PRETORIA-TEL AVIV COLLABORATION AND NOTED REPORTED AGREEMENTS AS A RESULT OF THE VOESTER VISIT IN THE AREAS OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, MILITARY PURCHASES, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AND INCREASED TRADE. HE SAID THAT APARTHEID AND ZIONISM WERE, IN FACT, SIMILAR AND WERE BASED ON CONCEPTS OF RACIAL SUPERIORITY AND OF COLONIZING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. ACCORDINGLY, HIS GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED RESOLUTION 3379 (XXX). FINALLY, HE SAID THAT IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO USE THIS RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DECADE WERE, IN FACT, THE TRADITIONAL SUPPORTERS OF THE RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

9. THE YUGOSLAV REPRESENTATIVE EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ON THE EVILS OF RACISM AND THE PRIORITY WHICH SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

10. THE CHINESE REPRESENTATIVE POINTED TO THE RECENT VICTORIES OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND CONTINUING EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS EVIDENCE OF AN HISTORIC TREND. HE SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA REMAINED DEFIANT OF WORLD OPINION AND IN DOING SO WAS SUPPORTED BY ONE "SUPER POWER." HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, THE OTHER "SUPER POWER" WAS SEEKING TO INFILTRATE INTO AFRICA TO REPLACE OLD IMPERIALISTS, AND HE CITED THE ANGOLA CASE AS AN EXAMPLE OF "WANTON AGGRESSION." HE SAID THAT THE PRC CONDEMNED SOUTH AFRICAN INVASION OF ANGOLA BUT EQUALLY CONDEMNED USSR IMPERIALISM AND THAT THE USSR SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY AND COMPLETELY.

11. THE GDR REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT OF THE DECADE, REFERRED TO THE RECENT SECURITY COUNCIL UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ON ANGOLA, AND CONDEMNED NATO POWERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF PRETORIA AND SALISBURY. HE SAID THAT THE GDR WELCOMED ALL RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH RACIAL DISCRIMINATION APPROVED BY THE 30TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN PARTICULAR RESOLUTION 3379 (ZIONISM), AND IN THIS CONNECTION CITED THE RECENT VORSTER VISIT TO ISRAEL.

12. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF TUNISIA AND VENEZUELA MADE VERY GENERAL STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE DECADE AND THE GHANA CONFERENCE. NEITHER MADE ANY REFERENCE TO THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION.

13. THE SESSION CLOSED WITH A HEATED EXCHANGE AMONG THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE USSR, CHINA, AND CUBA, ARISING FROM THE CHINESE COMMENTS ON SOVIET AGGRESSION. THE DEBATE CON-

TAINED LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE AND IS NOTEWORTHY ONLY IN THAT
CUBA FELT COMPELLED TO INTERVENE EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD NOT
BEEN SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED.
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